



Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

May 4, 2023, 7:00pm

City Council Chambers, 1 Quail Creek Circle, North Liberty, Iowa

Commission Members Present: Amy Chen, Richard Grugin, Gwen Johnson, Jeremy Parrish, and Kevin Stibal.

Members absent: Shannon Greene and Jamie Gade.

Staff Present: Shelly Simpson and Tim Hamer

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Richard Grugin.
2. Approval of May 4 Meeting Minutes Motion to approve by Ken Stibbal, Seconded by Gwen Johnson, unanimous approval.
3. Board Member Terms: It was noted that the terms of Richard Grugin and Shannon Greene are expiring. Applications from anyone interested in joining the Commission are due by May 25

4. Reports

Tim Hamer, Assistant Parks Director gave the monthly Parks, Building, and Grounds report.

Highlights included the regular clean up and equipment maintenance, as well as seasonal mowing and landscape care. Tim also reported that the sports maintenance team is busy with baseball and soccer field caretaking. He also reported that all of the Community Garden plot have been rented and readied for the season.

Other items of note was the success of the April 8 Muddy Creek cleanup with special thanks to the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Green Castle 4-H Club, Tree and Storm Water Board, City Council, City Staff, and North Liberty residents that participated. Tim reported that the City-wide Clean Up day at the Public Works facility was very successful. Also, derecho mulch was donated to Squire Point Nature Trail to support their improvement project. Along with positive general training and meetings, Tim reported the unfortunate event of graffiti on the bike trail and new pedestrian tunnel. Staff time and effort has to be spent removing this, but appropriate materials made the removal successful.

Full Parks/Building and Grounds report is included in monthly information packet.

Shelly Simpson provided the monthly Recreation/Pool report.

Shelly noted that April revenue for summer program registration totaled \$116,469.05 and all general revenue for ongoing activities was very positive this month. She noted the success of the annual Eggstravaganza Events with an estimated 400 attendance. Along with the general class and league positive numbers report, Shelly noted that the Recdesk database currently has 12,708 residents and 7,929 nonresidents which is an overall increase of 247 registrants.

It was noted that the outdoor pool is being readied for opening Memorial weekend and then only weekends until Iowa City Schools are out for the summer. This is due to the available staffing, but things are a full go for the summer.

Full Rec/Pool report is included in the monthly information packet.

5. Community Soundboard/New Ideas to Share

Several items were brought up for discussion, clarification, and future consideration.

Fox Run Park: Clarification about what was being done this year for that park and the status of the proposed playground that had been presented to the commission at a prior meeting.

Other amenities not included in the Centennial Park Next Stage project have been mentioned by the public such as a skate park, improved outdoor basketball courts, benches at other parks and trails, and more individual picnic tables.

A facility for the sport of curling was also mentioned.

It was agreed that ongoing discussion of these and other items brought from the public can be a part of future meetings.

6. Upcoming Events

The following upcoming events were noted, and the Commission expressed appreciation and excitement for all of the activities that are afforded North Liberty residents by our Parks and Rec Department and The Great Slate.

Remarkable Rigs – May 13, 10 am, Centennial Park

Spokes & Scoops – Community Bike Ride – May 17, 6pm, Ranshaw Tunnel to Penn Meadows Park.

Playground Crawl – May 20; various parks

Outdoor Pool Opening – Memorial Day Weekend, TBD.

Let Love Fly – June 3, 11 am, Centennial Park

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Jeremy Parrish moved for adjournment; Gwen Johnson seconded; unanimous approval to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.